



Good News From Good Shepherd

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep."
John 10:11

March, 2022

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Tears in Heaven

God replies to our prayers in ways we do not expect, always for his glory and not necessarily the way we desire. Sometimes his answers bring tears. Psalm 80 includes such a prayer. In verses 1 – 3 the people cry out for the Shepherd of Israel who sits enthroned between the Cherubim to come and save them. The Cherubim refers to the Ark which the Israelites would carry into battle with them for victory. The psalmist was calling for God to save them from their enemies like God used to do.

But this time, verse 4 asks God how long his anger will smolder against the prayers of his people. In other words, God did not answer their prayers with victory, and the psalmist wants to know how long God will ignore their prayers. Ezekiel 20:30-31 provides a clue as to why God may not have responded to their prayers with the relief that they desired. In that passage, God chides the people for defiling themselves with idols and for sacrificing their children. God asks, "Am I to let you inquire of me?" He answers, "No, He will not!"

Psalm 80 carries on with what God did instead. It says in verse 5 that God "fed them with the bread of tears" and "made them drink tears by the bowlful." What kind of response from God is this? What kind of tears are these? When we discipline our children they shed a lot of tears, generally because of the pain from their spankings or their anger at having to sit in a corner. Yet, Ezekiel 20:41-44 describes a different kind of tears – tears of remorse. It says that God would show himself holy and deal with the people for His name's sake and not according to their evil ways. God was going to show the people mercy. And because of that mercy, Ezekiel 20:43 says that the people would remember their conduct and everything they did to defile themselves. They would loathe themselves because of all the evil they had done.

Zechariah 12:10 likewise says, "They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son."

God showed us mercy by sacrificing his one and only son for us that whosoever should believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. How do we respond to this? Do we remember and loathe our conduct, shedding tears in repentance of our ways? Do we mourn for the one we have pierced?

These should be the questions we reflect on each week during Lent and each Sunday when we prepare for communion. We must recognize and repent of who we are. Then if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Confession with repentance is one prayer that God always hears.

God doesn't always give us what we pray for. Instead, he gave us what we needed for salvation for his name's sake. This should bring tears to our eyes: tears of sorrow for our sin, tears of remorse for the one we have pierced, and tears of joy for the unmerited mercy we have received. In Revelation 21:4, John writes that in heaven God will wipe every tear from our eyes. I believe that these are not tears shed because our lives are hard. We will be beyond those kinds of tears. Instead, God will be welcoming us into heaven and wiping away the tears we shed due to the remorse we have for the evil we have done while on earth viewed in light of his mercy. Please join together in our Lenten services with contrite hearts on bended knee, and allow God to wipe away all of your tears. **David Smith, Head Elder (210.218.3685, Destax1962@gmail.com)**

Table of Content

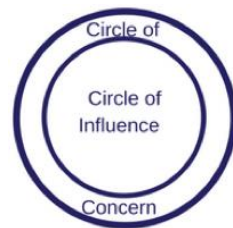
From the Head Elder	page 1
A Message from Your President	page 2
Christian Education	page 3
Lent Services	page 4
Choir	page 5
Birthday Calendar	page 5
Charles Socks/Undies Sunday	page 5
Operation Flood Bucket	page 5
Events	page 6-10
LCMS Newsletter	page 11

A Message from Your President



“From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and from him who has been entrusted with much, even more will be demanded.” Luke 12:48b

The following excerpt based on the above verse was taken from the February POBLO Newsletter found on the Ohio District website. Here's the link you can copy to your browser: <https://www.oh.lcms.org/missions-articles/109-poblo/1680-february-2022>. The author is Akima George.



We all have a certain amount of influence, whether as churches or as individuals. If our circle of interest is smaller than our influence, we are not doing enough. If it is larger, we're doing too much. When the circles of interest and influence match, we are at our optimum level of service. We can feel overburdened, useless, and ineffective when our heart yearns to reach every area of needs we see (our interests) and we are unable to do much (our influence). Vice versa, we may be able to make a significant difference (a large amount of influence) but have no interest to do so.

I recognized the impartation of God's desire for our participation in the kingdom work; we are asked to partner with the Holy Spirit. [...] rather than feel upset about the areas that I cannot reach, and the things that I cannot do, I try to serve where I can, when I can, and how I can. [...] I challenge you to join me. My goal is to stand before my King and say with certainty that what I was entrusted with, I used to its fullest, and I hope to hear "Well done".

I share this as the Nominating Committee is working to fill a ballot for the May election of leadership positions, namely **President, Treasurer, Christian Ministry Chair, Property Chair and three Elders**. Thankfully, as was reported at the voter meeting, those currently serving as Property Chair and the three Elders have already agreed to let their names stand for re-election. I challenge us to prayerfully consider our circles of influence and control. Are we being good stewards of the gifts we've been blessed with? Are we applying them to His service, to the fullest, where we are, when and how we can? The terms of these positions will begin July 1 and continue through June 30, 2024.



Council Actions: Other than approving the prior minutes, there were no voted items at the February council meeting. Consensus was reached on these items: 1) Establishing the Nominating Committee: VP as Chair with current open positions serving on the committee (president, treasurer, Christian ministry board chair); 2) Seeking counsel on our proper relationship with our two chartered youth group; 3) preparation for the voter meeting; 4) continue work on an employee policy.

Voter Meeting Highlights: Thirty-four (34) voters attended the meeting. Thank you to the youth for supplying the baked-potato bar. Awesome attendance! Awesome bar! An uplifting recorded message of thanksgiving and hope was heard from Kohen Mason. The voters approved the motion empowering the treasurer to monthly pay toward principle the difference of the mortgage payment and the budgeted amount of \$4,000 for 2022. We celebrate the progress of the 13th Month campaign having applied \$13,850 to principle already this year! God is Good!

As we begin our Lenten journey this month, may we all consider our place in God's kingdom story - debtors, at the foot of His cross, humbly able to offer Him only that which he has entrusted us with - this one life of service.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 1 Peter 5:6 [NIV]

Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

Embraced by His Grace, Engaged in His Word, Empowered by His Spirit

Christian Education



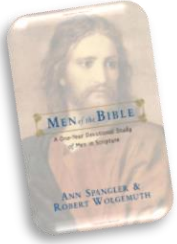
Women's Cleaning *Retreat* and Bible Lunch • Saturday • March 19

Ladies - In place of the second Saturday Bible Breakfast, we will instead be gathering at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 19, and *retreating* to the sanctuary to do some deep cleaning in anticipation of celebrating Easter. We'll work til noon and then gather around lunch and the Word, finishing the LWML Fruits of the Spirit study on Love.



Women's Sunday Bible Study • *Forgiveness* • 8:45 a.m.

Our small group meets in the Duchow Room. Our study is Forgiveness by Donna Pyle (now Snow). The book is available from CPH for \$14.99. Please feel free to join in. It's not too late!

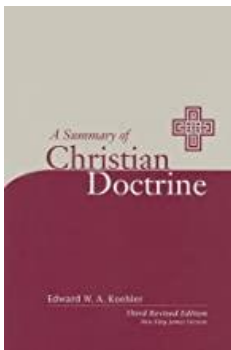


Women's Tuesday Bible Study • *Men of the Bible* • 9:30 am

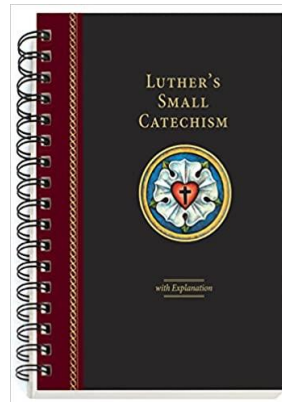
We are meeting in person; providing zoom for those who prefer. All are welcome. Join in any time. We study one person each session, no book required. If you wish to be included, let Lynn know and we'll get the meeting invite to you.

Women's Bible Study at Sherri Smith's Tuesdays 3-5 pm and 6-8 pm

All women are welcome to join WBS, including friends outside of GSLC. Contact Sherri who lives in Union at 210-854-2598 if interested.



Men's Bible Study Mondays – 10 Am A Summary of Christian Doctrine



Pastor's Bible Study Sunday at 8:45 am Tuesday at 7:00 pm Luther's Small Catechism



Devotion for Lent Copies available in the Entryway and in the Gathering area.

In Suffering Servant, we encounter Jesus the Man sent to redeem a lost world. Born in the flesh, Jesus became like us. Taking the form of a Servant, He emptied Himself. Bearing our sins to the cross, He gives us newness of life through His victory over death won for us by His resurrection from the dead

Lent and Easter at Good Shepherd



Please join the family of Good Shepherd as we begin our Lenten services at 7 PM beginning on Wednesday, March 2. Lent is a season of preparation. We are preparing to celebrate Easter on April 17th and the church prepares by repentance. The observance of Lent is an opportunity to encourage and facilitate a closer look at our lives and Christ's sacrifice of His life for us.

While Lent leads us to repentance, it isn't to make us sad or to somehow get God's attention. It is to strengthen our faith. Part of that strengthening includes an increased awareness of our great need — which often means preaching the Law. Lent includes, and is mostly focused on, the solution to that need shown to us by the law: the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our redemption. **Our theme this Lent is the ten commandments.** We are focused on commandments 2 through 10 during Lent and the First Commandment on Easter. The law will prepare us to repent and lead us to Christ.

All Services are at 7 PM during lent: Please mark your calendars.

Ash Wednesday March 2. With ashes and communion. Ash Wednesday is the first of weekly Wednesday night services that are added during Lent to help strengthen us in our faith during this dedicated time of the year.

Theme: The ninth and tenth commandments combined. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

March 9: Theme: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

March 16: Theme: You shall not steal.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

March 23: Theme: You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

March 30: Theme: You shall not murder.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

April 6: Theme: Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

April 14: Maundy Thursday, service with communion. Theme: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

April 15: Good Friday Tenebrae service. Theme: You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

April 17: Easter Theme: You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

The commandments and explanations are taken from the Small Catechism which can be found online at <https://catechism.cph.org/en/10-commandments.html> Glen Leavens, Elder and Pastor Poynter



Calling all choir members! To prepare special music for Holy Week and Easter, we will have choir practice on Wednesday nights immediately following the Lent services. We will meet on March 9, March 16, March 23, March 30, and April 6. No practice on Ash Wednesday. Thank you.

Kim Leavens



March

Phillip Brann	March 4
Susan Schneider	March 8
Linda Kuhn	March 9
Jeanne Brooks	March 15
Lenton Woolley	March 15
Maleah Siren	March 20

April

Lisa Berns	April 1
Karyl Juergens	April 2
Fred Langsdale	April 2
Liam Wesley Ostermeier	April 4
Bryan Yri	April 13
Dalton Aragon	April 22
Mark Aragon	April 25
Taylor Woolley	April 27



Charlie's Socks and Undie-Sunday Drive

The annual socks and underwear collection will begin Sunday March 13 and will end on Sunday, March 27. These items will be distributed to kids and adults in Northern Kentucky. Please consider participating in this worthwhile cause. We are requesting new socks for all ages, men, women and children. Donations of new underwear for boys and girls would also be greatly appreciated. You can drop your donations in a collection bin in the entryway.

"But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

Hebrews 13:16

Operation Flood Bucket

Once again, on behalf of the Federation of Lutheran Churches of Cincinnati and Vicinity, Good Shepherd will be participating in making Flood Buckets to help those in need of clean-up supplies when natural disasters strike. We will be collecting donated items from April 10 – 24. There will be a poster with corresponding slips of paper with information for the needed item. Take as many slips for the items you are willing to donate! Return them to the fellowship hall grocery cart by April 24th. The buckets will be assembled at Peace Lutheran Church on Saturday, April 30th. The Youth Group will be assisting with assembling the buckets. Please contact Mary Givhan if you have any questions.



February Events

Men's game night

The men's game night featured a chess tournament, along with card games and checkers.



Dave Wissler is the 2022 Chess tournament champion, winning all of his games in the double elimination chess tournament.



Lee Brooks taught the men how to golf with cards. The men also learned how to play 7 up and down. We all had fun, playing games and socializing at church.



Pastor's Circuit Meeting at GSLC



Ladies' Luncheon and Secret Sister Reveal



Potato Bar And Voter's Meeting





Good Shepherd Voter Meeting

February 20, 2022

GSVM - 13th Month Campaign - Budget Support

► **Motion:** To monthly pay to principle the difference of the \$4000 budgeted mortgage amount and the actual monthly mortgage payment.

► **Rationale:**
 Reduction in interest rate in January (4% to 3.625%) => lesser payment, more to principle
 Current payment is \$3862 (=> \$238 to principle/mo or \$2856 to principle/yr if nothing changes; could be more if rate is reduced.)



Baptism of Aurthor Lewis Dannenfelser



*Save The Date
Mobile Food Pantry
Saturday, April 30
More information to come*



God's Providential Care

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God's providential care. We understand that we're not islands unto ourselves, that we could not exist without those who have gone before us and are alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know that God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers of all sorts so that we can eat. But more than that God created and gave us all the things that those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things, properties for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste and their nutritional value, we would not exist.

He gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments. Again, he gave us all things that go into making those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties that can be utilized for that purpose. Without God creating and instilling those healing properties into those things, and without God creating the ability within man to find this out and press it into service of our medical needs, we would not enjoy the kind of health we do now.

But there's more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands: "Then Moses said to the people of Israel, 'See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.' " (Exodus 35:30–34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands. And attached to those hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds in order to make those arms and hands move to accomplish the work set before us. And He has given us reason and senses. That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes as well as the accomplishments of others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us ... us. So that everything we have AND everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God's provision for our spiritual well-being. That He sent His son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. That He delivers that justification through the Means of Grace (Baptism, preaching, the Word of God, and the Lord's Supper).

And to give you those Means of Grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Again, this could be expanded and expounded upon. So that literally everything that we have and everything that we are – in this life and the next – is an inexpressible gift from God. And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about – giving thanks for God's provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts. It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn't stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God's gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church. "For all this is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him" (Luther's Small Catechism, 16). o give thanks to God for His inexpressible gift – for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not in word only but also in deed.



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